

## Terms of reference for an environmental impact statement

### Addendum – terms of reference for the Wateranga Project EIS

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*In accordance with section 62 of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 this addendum contains a request for additional information that must be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement for the Wateranga Project in addition to that required by the final terms of reference for the project.*

The terms of reference for the Wateranga Project environmental impact statement (EIS) were finalised in November 2004. In September 2008 the proponent, Queensland Industrial Minerals Ltd requested an extension to the period for submission of an environmental impact statement to 3 November 2010. In deciding this extension, the Environmental Protection Agency by public notice sought comments on matters likely to be affected by the project that have arisen since 2004 and are not adequately described in the current Terms of Reference. This Addendum incorporates the additional information requested in the 9 submissions received.

#### Section 2.6 Introduction – Project Approvals

##### 2.6.1 Relevant Legislation and Policy Requirements

The proposed Wateranga project is located within the North Burnett Regional Council which is part of the Wide Bay Burnett region. The Wide Bay Burnett Regional Plan 2007-2026 is a non-statutory document to guide future land use planning, economic development, infrastructure provision and environmental protection.

The EIS for the Wateranga project should provide a detailed commentary of the proposal's consistency with the vision, principles and actions of the Wide Bay Burnett Regional Plan 2007-2026.

##### State Resources – Forest Products

The requirements under the *Forestry Act 1959* should be addressed. Any quarry material and forest products (logs, fire wood, fencing timber, burls etc) standing on State land (road reserves etc) within the proposed project site will remain property of the State with Natural Resources and Water (NRW) Forest Products being the selling agents for this material under the authority of the *Forestry Act 1959*.

Further, over burden from the proposed mine site in State land could be defined as quarry material and NRW Forest Products should be consulted prior to commencement of operations on any sections of State land to assess the commercial interests of the State.

The EIS should include a description, preferably tabulated, outlining the resource present, its locality and the proposed future impact on the resource, such as clearing or mining. This information should also be displayed spatially using an appropriately scaled map.

#### Section 3.2 Alternatives to the project

Alternative vehicular access routes and arrangements to and from the subject land should be canvassed and the reasons for the proposed choice outlined (cross-referenced to section 5.1.2.6).

#### Section 4.2 Description of the Project – Construction

In relation to emergency management during construction, provide:

- Details of emergency management plant to be put in place during construction, including procedures and notifications;

- Details of fire safety measures, for example, fire safety measures to be used during construction of the processing plant;
- Details of bushfire management plan, fire control points, including fire fighting water supplies;
- Emergency access provisions;
- Details of access in emergency situations particularly if a single access route is proposed (cross-reference to 5.1.2.6);
- Details as to any permanent and/or temporary road closures or vehicle limitations to existing public road access.

## **Section 4.3 Operations**

In relation to emergency management during construction, provide:

- Details of a bush fire management plan, fire control points, including fire fighting water supplies; and
- Details of emergency access provisions.

In relation to state lands the EIS should identify all such parcels of land, their tenures and the proposed use of the land.

## **Section 4.5 Infrastructure Requirements**

If conveyors are to be used for moving materials, they should be described and any impacts (e.g. noise, dust) identified.

Upgrades of roads within or adjacent to the full supply level (FSL) of Paradise Dam will, in the appropriate sections of the EIS, need to consider and address any possible impacts on water quality within the dam, e.g. implementation of management actions such as sediment and erosion control.

### **4.5.4 Stormwater drainage**

A detailed plan of the proposed stormwater drainage system and the proposed disposal arrangements is considered particularly important given the close proximity of the project to the Paradise Dam impoundment and the potential for stormwater run-off to impact on the water quality and the aquatic environment within Paradise Dam. A plan to manage stormwater drainage and disposal during flood events is also required.

### **4.5.5 Sewerage**

A detailed plan of the proposed method of storage and disposal of effluent is considered particularly important given the close proximity of the project to the Paradise Dam and the potential for effluent to impact on the water quality and the aquatic environment within Paradise Dam. A plan to manage sewerage storage and disposal during flood events is also required.

## **Section 4.6 Character and Quantity of Waste Materials**

### **4.6.1.2 Solid Waste Disposal**

Where a land fill is proposed, the materials to be disposed are required to be identified and risks addressed in relation to seepage or leaching of these materials to ground or surface waters, including the Paradise Dam.

## **Section 5.0 Environmental values and management of impacts**

### **5.1.1.4 Land use**

The proximity of the project to the waters of Paradise Dam, the 20 year flood event and the 100 year flood event need to be identified.

#### **5.1.2.1 Land use suitability and sustainable land use**

An assessment of the potential impacts on the adjacent Paradise Dam impoundment, due to the change in land use on the site, will need to be undertaken. Potential impacts off site, that may impact on the Paradise Dam, should also be identified and described.

### **5.1.2.2 Land disturbance**

Address other forms of land degradation beyond soil erosion, such as increased salinity, to ensure the proposal does not detrimentally affect the area. The potential for an increase in salinity of the land to be mined or adjacent to the mining lease areas should be discussed.

If any areas prone to salinity are identified, mitigating measures should be outlined in the EIS to avoid an increase of its occurrence.

### **5.1.2.4 Soil erosion**

Methods proposed to prevent or control erosion should be specified and should be developed with regard to preventing degradation of the Paradise Dam water supply by suspended solids. It is recommended that a detailed and comprehensive Erosion and Sediment Control Plan be prepared.

### **5.1.2.6 Transport**

Identify the risks of a single access road (entrance and exit) for the proposed development, particularly for access by emergency vehicles, and that measures would be used to reduce the identified risks.

## **5.3.1 Water Resources – Description of Environmental Values**

### **5.3.1.1 Surface Waterways**

Floods in the Burnett River have the potential to rise very rapidly, and as such it is possible for water levels in Paradise Dam to rise rapidly. All safety and environmental risks associated with exploitation of resources below FSL, where there is potential for rapid water level rises, will need to be comprehensively addressed in the EIS (this may include any proposals for levees and the progressive rehabilitation of the levees).

### **5.3.2 Water Resources - Potential impacts and mitigation measures**

Strategies are required to prevent, minimise and contain impacts of uncontrolled emissions to water due to system or catastrophic failure on agricultural lands.

#### **5.3.2.1 Surface water and watercourses**

Options for mitigation and the effectiveness of mitigation measures, with reference to emissions of a hazardous or toxic nature and their impact on agricultural activities need to be addressed.

#### **5.3.2.2 Groundwater**

An assessment needs to be conducted of the potential for environmental harm caused by the proposal to local groundwater resources and the potential for those contaminated groundwater resources to contaminate the Paradise Dam impoundment.

## **Section 5.4 Air**

### **5.4.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures**

Impacts on sensitive receptors such as the Paradise Dam impoundment also need to be addressed.

The proposed methods of suppressing and minimising product dust emissions during road transport to Bundaberg and the port by way of load covers or other containment or suppression mechanisms.

## **Section 5.6 Noise and vibration**

### **5.6.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures**

Vibration impacts on the structural integrity and operational functionality of Paradise Dam and the mini hydro power generator need to be quantified and management and mitigation strategies developed.

Vibration impacts on bank stability also need to be quantified and management and mitigation strategies developed.

## **Section 5.7 Nature Conservation**

### **5.7.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures**

A list of all regional ecosystems that will be cleared as a result of the project should be provided. The list should include the regional ecosystems conservation status as defined by the VMA and the area of each regional ecosystem to be cleared.

Describe how the proposal will maintain connectivity despite proposed clearing of remnant vegetation on freehold land and remnant and non-remnant vegetation on any State lands.

Areas that are essential habitat or critical habitat that may be affected by the project should be identified and mitigation measures proposed.

## Section 5.12 Hazard and Risk

### 5.12.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures

Burnett Water Pty Ltd and SunWater Ltd should be consulted in any assessment of potential impacts of both natural and inducted emergency situations, counter disaster, and rescue procedures as a result of the project.

#### Disclaimer

While this document has been prepared with care, it contains general information and does not profess to offer legal, professional or commercial advice. The Queensland Government accepts no liability for any external decisions or actions taken on the basis of this document. Persons external to the Environmental Protection Agency should satisfy themselves independently and by consulting their own professional advisors before embarking on any proposed course of action.

## Approved By

SIGNED (S.Cameron)

Signature

3 February 2009

Date

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